

Edition 12

Commonwealth of  
Kentucky

Office  
of the  
Attorney General

**Ben Chandler,**  
Attorney General

Jeff LaGrew,  
Assistant Deputy  
Attorney General

Office of  
Senior Protection  
Website:

[www.law.state.ky.us/  
senior](http://www.law.state.ky.us/senior)

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## 1st Statewide TRIAD Conference to be held in Frankfort

The First Annual State TRIAD Conference will allow volunteers and members of TRIADs the opportunity to network with each other, and get some helpful insight into what has worked for other TRIADs to make them successful.

Workshops will include Problems and Solutions of starting a TRIAD, Projects, Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers, and a special round table discussion with national Board members.

The conference will be hosting some special guests in its first year. Kentucky TRIAD is proud to host various Directors and Officers of the National TRIAD organization. These leaders will be attending and presenting in all workshops and conference discussion sessions.

TRIAD will be sharing the facility and many of its workshops with another very important crime fighting organization in the state, the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition (KCPC). In conjunction with KCPC's annual training, it is hosting the first statewide School Resource Officer, Youth Crime Watch and TRIAD training starting September 4th and concluding on September 7th. The diversity of people participating in this training will provide

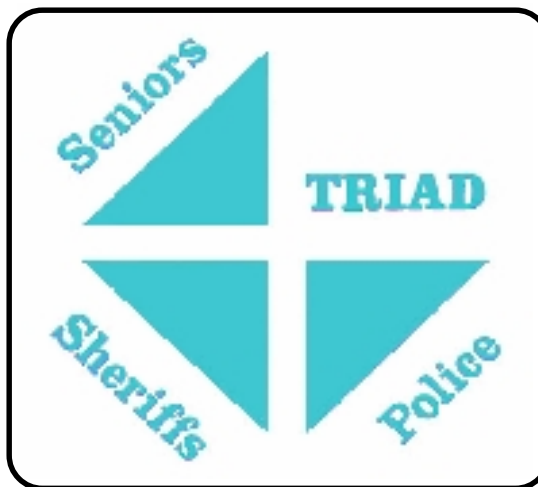
a wide perspective as the focus of all participants' centers on Crime Prevention programs and their benefit to one's community. Individuals interested in both conferences may register for both prior to the conference or at the on-site registration.

The keynote speaker for the event is Sheriff

John P. Stone, sheriff of Jefferson County, Colorado. Sheriff will give a special presentation on Friday, September 7, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on insight into lessons learned from the tragedy of April 20, 1999, at Columbine High

School in Colorado. Stone took over the office of Jefferson County Sheriff in January of 1999. His department serves approximately 173,349 residents in its 777 square mile radius near Denver, Colorado. The department has around 400 sworn deputies and 185 non-sworn employees.

During this first conference, TRIAD and KCPC are going to take some time to recognize the many individuals who help make their programs a success every year. This Awards Ceremony, to be held at the dinner on Wednesday, September 5th, will include those individuals and programs that KCPC, YCW, and TRIAD want to recognize for 2001.



## **Attorney General Creates Cemetery Task Force**

Attorney General Ben Chandler announced the formation of the Task Force on the Preservation of Kentucky Cemeteries. The task force will provide a complete comprehensive study of current and future problems for state and local officials to determine what corrective actions need to be taken to protect the integrity of these cemeteries.

Representative Reginald Meeks, of Louisville, will chair the 24-member task force that includes representatives from the following organizations: Senate, local governments, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky Heritage Council, Kentucky Council of Churches, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Kentucky Jewish Federation, University of Louisville Department of Anthropology, Kentucky State University, Kentucky Historical Society,

Kentucky Military Affairs Commission, American Association of Retired Persons, Native American Heritage Commission, African American Heritage Commission, Kentucky Funeral Directors Association, Kentucky Association of Morticians, Kentucky Cemetery Association and local community volunteers.

The task force held it's first meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2001 at the University of Louisville Shelby Campus,

The task force will address physical conditions and solvency of cemeteries, the role of state and local government in overseeing cemeteries, and identification of federal or private funding sources for cemeteries, among other issues. The task force will submit a report to the Attorney General by September 30, 2001. The findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the Kentucky General Assembly for consideration.

In the 200 session of the Kentucky General Assembly the Attorney General submitted specific recommendations to address the long-term maintenance needs of three Louisville cemeteries where more than 115,000 people are buried. Last week the Attorney General took legal action to address significant problems at Cove Haven Cemetery, in Lexington, where human bones and pieces of coffins were found in plain view.

In 2001, State Rep. Reginald Meeks pushed for passage of a resolution that would produce a study of the state's cemeteries and provide recommendations for the legislature. The measure passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 95-0. The Senate did not take action.

If you have any questions concerning cemeteries, contact the Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection, (502) 5389.

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## **KinCare Project Helps Grandparent Caregivers**

The Kentucky KinCare Project is a partnership of the state Office of Aging Services and Family Resource and Youth Services Centers and the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. Located in schools throughout the state, the resource centers represent a joint education and human service's attack on environmental circumstances that often impede student's learning abilities.

The focus of the KinCare Project is the establishment of collaboration at the community level between the resource centers, local senior citizen



centers and the county cooperative extension offices. The intent is to intervene, where appropriate, with surrogate caregivers of children attending school and who may be experiencing difficulty in adjusting to the parenting role. The project currently has 28 support groups in operation with many other prospective groups in the works.

Most of the support groups meet on a regular basis for programs on issues, such as kinship care financial assistance program and presentations by representatives of local provider agencies. Most follow a pattern of surveying

*(cont. on page 6 )*

## Seniors Day Out



*Fayette County Sheriff Kathy Witt (talking to a Senior Day Out worker) stands before one of the various service booths at the Lexington/Fayette County TRIAD Seniors Day Out event.*

The **Lexington/Fayette County TRIAD** held a Seniors Day Out at the Home Extension Office on Red Mile Road in Lexington on Wednesday, May 16, 2001. In a day filled with events ranging from the crime prevention program to entertainment, a large number of area seniors thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Representatives of Fayette County Sheriff Kathy Witt's office, as well as many other service providers joined participating seniors in the day's various events. The program included presentations on how to proceed with Home Improvement activities in an age where many seniors become victims of illegitimate home improvement distributors. They also took in a presentation detailing the many aspects of Personal Protection. The various other service providers also got an opportunity to reach out to their community's seniors, which is valuable to their programs. As Carol Ballard, Executive Director of the **Lexington/Fayette County TRIAD**, has said in the past, "The Seniors Day Out program provides a great opportunity to tell the community about our 'vial of life' program." Central Kentucky seniors are already looking forward to next

The **Paducah/McCracken County TRIAD** sponsored a Seniors Day Out at the Kentucky Oaks Mall again this year on May 22nd, 2001. Over 500 seniors from the Purchase Area attended. Over the half-day event, crime prevention presentations by the Paducah Police Department, McCracken County Sheriff's Office and the Attorney General's Office were well received. Similar to other Seniors Day Out events across the Commonwealth, the local police forces offered great presentations and tips to area seniors regarding Personal Protection and the attainment of Home Improvement providers. Various forms of entertainment were enjoyed by all that attended following the presentations. Plans are already in the works for the **Paducah/McCracken County TRIAD's** "3rd Annual" Seniors Day Out.



*Lt. Alan Coomer presents information on Personal Protection to a large audience at one of the many Seniors Day Out events scheduled this year.*



## Memories from Three Centuries

*Information provided by  
Catherine Brown*



*Jeff LaGrew, Director of the Office of Senior Protection, takes a moment to pose with this edition's featured Centenarian, Alice McGuire Hoppes, during a visit at her home in Louisville.*

### **Meet a Centenarian** ***Alice McGuire Hoppes***

Alice McGuire, who celebrated her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, has led a very adventurous life in those years. Alice was born on March 14, 1893, in the New England community of Voluntown, Connecticut. Alice spent her first 22 years of life in this small, pleasant rural community on Connecticut's Rhode Island border. At 22, Alice struck out for a degree traveling to Norwich, Connecticut.

Miss McGuire went to the harbor city of Norwich like many other individuals in the early twentieth century to get an education. At that time the community was booming with many large mills popping up, as well as various church, social and education centers. Alice entered William W. Backus Hospital in 1915 and was among one of the first class of students to graduate as a registered nurse.

Upon completion of her nursing degree, Alice McGuire joined the Navy Nurse Corps. It was nearing the end of World War I, and Alice was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, at the new Norfolk Naval Station. While serving her five years, she met Earl Hoppes. Earl Hoppes was a navy man. Later the two decided to marry upon completion of their enlistments. After the couple was discharged and married, they moved from Virginia to Earl Hoppes' hometown of Anderson, Indiana, known by many for its automobile factories.

Soon after arriving in Anderson, the Hoppes began to start a family. Alice and Earl had three children, John, Catherine, and James. After several years, the Hoppes decided to move again setting up house in the community of Jeffersonville, Indiana. Earl Hoppes began working at the Quarter Master Depot. The Quarter Master Corp are responsible for operation and supplies of the armed forces dating back to the Revolutionary War. When Earl passed away in 1973, Alice moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to live with her daughter Catherine Brown. She has lived in Louisville now for 21 years.

Those who encounter Alice find her remarkable. Mrs. Hoppes is a warm, wonderful lady who not only served her family and patients well, but also her country over these last 108 years.

#### **Know Anyone Who has lived in 3 Centuries?**

The Senior Snooper is looking for people, born in the 1800's. **Send us their names & addresses.** We're sending out special greetings and want to include them. **Mail to:**

**Office of the Attorney General, Office of Senior Protection,  
700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601 Attn: Whitney Hale**

## BEWARE HOME IMPROVEMENT SCAMS

Your home is your biggest investment, but being a homeowner can make you a target of some of the most common scams in recent years. Home improvement scams, from shoddy workmanship to classic ‘bait and switch’ frauds, are an increasing source of consumer complaints across the nation.

As warm weather approaches, consumers are encouraged to beware of home improvement contractors who come to your home unsolicited to inform you that you need expensive repair work, such as roof or driveway damage that you never noticed. Many times, these salesmen will offer a special “deal” because they say they have material left over from another job in your neighborhood.

If you are suspicious, make note of the vehicle description or license number and call your local law enforcement.

In May the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division obtained a restraining order against six family members accused of operating an asphalt-paving scam in and around Shelby County in violation of the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act.

The Stanleys are alleged to have operated under several names, including Bluegrass Paving, AAA Asphalt Company, AAA Blacktop Paving, J’s Construction Company and J’s Road Construction. It is further alleged that a member of the Stanley family approached consumers door-to-door claiming that they had left-over asphalt from a previous job and could offer a discounted rate on paving services. After consumers agreed to the services, it is alleged that the Stanley family would then pave areas not requested by the consumer, inform consumers that additional asphalt would be needed resulting in additional costs, or simply present consumers with a bill for as much as twice the amount that was agreed to. The complaint alleges that the Stanleys then used various forms of intimidation to persuade consumers to pay.

## TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Home Improvement scams remain popular with criminals. A good rule of thumb for any consumer to remember is that if “it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.” “Limited time offers” & high-pressure sales pitches can also be scam come-ons. Check with Better Business Bureau, Attorney General’s Office, prior customers, banks and suppliers. For your convenience, listed below are tips to avoid these forms of scam.

- n** Get any promises in writing &, if you can, ask a lawyer to review the terms of a written contract before you sign.
- n** Ask if subcontractors will be used. If so, check them out too. Do they have insurance?
- n** Check with friends & neighbors that contracted similar work & contact the Better Business Bureau to see if there are any complaints on the contractors.
- n** Always ask for references, & contact them before you sign.
- n** Don’t agree to finance through your contractor without shopping around & comparing loan rates & terms, & don’t agree to home equity loans if you can’t make the monthly payment.
- n** Be wary of demands for hefty down payments. Many contractors will ask for a good faith deposit, but most contractors will bill after work is done.
- n** Don’t be pressured into paying additional fees after work has started. If you feel threatened, don’t surrender your rights. Call the police.
- n** Don’t pay unreasonable advance sums. Negotiate a payment schedule tied to the completion of specific stages of the job done to your satisfaction. Never pay in full up front.
- n** Know your rights. You have 3 days to cancel after signing a contract for home improvements. You must be given a copy of this cancellation policy. All cancellations must be in writing.

*(cont. on page 7 )*

## Kentucky Senior Snooper

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Name of Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>SENIOR CRIME COLLEGE</b>	Breathitt County Senior Center, Jackson	June 6, 2001 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Nancy Combs at (606) 666-2554.</i>		
<b>SENIOR CRIME COLLEGE</b>	Henderson County Senior Center The Gathering Place, Henderson	June 26, 2001 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Steve Rust at (270) 827-2948.</i>		
<b>SENIOR CRIME COLLEGE</b>	Hopkinsville Housing Authority Riverfront Center, Hopkinsville	July 10, 2001 10:00 a.m. - noon
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Venita Vaught at (270) 887-4275</i>		
<b>TRIAD 2001 - STATEWIDE CONFERENCE</b>	Holiday Inn Capital Plaza Frankfort	September 4 - 5, 2001 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Sept. 4th) 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Sept. 5th)
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Roberta Merideth at (502) 696-5610.</i>		
<b>KCPC STATEWIDE CONFERENCE</b>	Holiday Inn Capital Plaza Frankfort	September 4 - 7, 2001
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Bob Douglas at (888) 798-5272.</i>		
<b>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>	Frankfort	September 8, 2001 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Tonya Hartley of the Franklin County Crime Commission at 502/875-8751.</i>		
<b>SENIOR DAY OUT</b>	Bowling Green	September 11, 2001
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Michelle Hines (270) 781-2381.</i>		
<b>SENIOR DAY OUT</b>	Elizabethtown	September 13, 2001
<i>For more information regarding this event, please contact Sam Miller (270) 234-1559.</i>		

### CORRECTION

In the March Snooper, we regret listing an incorrect date regarding the Victims Assistance Conference. **The 2001 Victims Assistance Conference took place March 20 - March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for the next Victims Assistance Conference in March 2002.**

## The Attorney General's OFFICE OF SENIOR PROTECTION

cont. **TIPS** (from page 5)

- n** Get 3 estimates from local, reputable contractors. Make sure all costs are covered in estimate including down payment, finance charges, building permit fees, installation costs & all materials.
- n** Make sure your contract includes specific work to be completed, materials to be used, estimated start & finish dates, & clean up provisions.

If you're dissatisfied with work performed, first attempt to resolve the problem with contractor. Allow him time to correct & repair. If contractor doesn't make corrections to your satisfaction contact:

**Office of the Attorney General  
Consumer Protection Division  
1024 Capital Center Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
or call 1-888-432-9257  
( O A G Consumer Hotline).**

cont. **KINCARE** (from page 2)

members' needs and arranging referrals to appropriate assistance sources. Educational concerns and legal assistance rank at the top in caregiver needs. The primary benefit of support groups is network interaction. Group members are active in a growing national grandparents' rights movement and point to several significant legislative achievements, like 1998's SB 205, which established the same custody rights for grandparents as birth parents in some circumstances. Currently, the steering committee is developing a legislative package for the 2002 session. If you would like to start a local support group please call project coordinator Bill Montgomery at (502) 564-6930.

### ***To Subscribe to the Kentucky Senior Snooper:***

*If you know someone who would like to receive this publication or you yourself would like to receive it electronically,*

*please contact our office at:*  
**502/696-5610**

*or send an e-mail to:*  
**Roberta.Merideth@law.state.ky.us**

## ***2001 TRIAD Statewide Training Registration Form***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency/TRIAD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ TRIAD Registration Fee Enclosed

**\$50.00** if paid by 8/17/01; **\$60.00** if paid after 8/17/01

\_\_\_\_\_ TRIAD & KCPC Registration Fee Enclosed.

**\$125.00** if paid by 8/17/01; **\$150.00** if paid after 8/17/01

Please complete and return this registration form to the Office of the Attorney General, 700 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601, ATTN: 2001 TRIAD Statewide Training. Make Checks payable to **KCPC/TRIAD Conference.**

Conference attendees must make their own hotel arrangements. Rooms are available at the conference hotel for \$67 (plus tax) per night, single/double. To make reservations contact: Holiday Inn, Frankfort, KY at 502-227-5100. Please indicate to the reservation agent that you will be attending the **KCPC Conference.** (The TRIAD Statewide Training is being held in conjunction with the KCPC Annual Conference.)

## AWARE, AVOID, ALERT!



### ***The Kentucky Senior Snooper***

This newsletter is for informational purposes only. To share news for senior citizens, please write:

**Attorney General's Office  
Senior Protection  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Attn: Newsletter**

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